

Vietnamese zodiac

The **Vietnamese zodiac** (Vietnamese: *Mười hai con giáp*) is the traditional Vietnamese classification scheme based on the lunar calendar that assigns an animal and its reputed attributes to each year in a repeating 12-year cycle. Instead of centuries, the Viet lunar calendar is divided into 60-year cycles known as *hồi*. Each of these consists of five 12-year animal cycles.^[1]

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The Vietnamese zodiac is similar to the Chinese zodiac in its usage and arrangement of animals, but replaces the ox with the water buffalo and the rabbit with the cat.^[1] The Sino-Vietnamese name for the year of the cat/rabbit is Mào/Mẹo(卯) which is very similar in pronunciation to the native Vietnamese word Mèo for cat.^[2]

| Zodiac animal sign | Vietnamese zodiac | Characteristic |
|----------------------|-------------------|---|
| <u>Rat</u> | chuột | Welcomed as a bringer of good luck. |
| <u>Water buffalo</u> | trâu | Associated with riches achieved through hard work. |
| <u>Tiger</u> | cọp | Warm-hearted yet fearsome, and brave in the face of danger. |
| <u>Cat</u> | mèo | Known for tranquil, realistic, intelligent and artistic. |
| <u>Dragon</u> | rồng | Imperial symbol, associated with the male element yang. |
| <u>Snake</u> | rắn | Enigmatic, wise, and like to live well. |
| <u>Horse</u> | ngựa | Signifies, freedom and confidence. |
| <u>Goat</u> | dê | Associated with creativity and good taste . |
| <u>Monkey</u> | khỉ | Versatile and mischievous. Associated with inventors, entertainers, and anything ingenious. |
| <u>Chicken</u> | gà | Brave and resilient, but can also be self-absorbed and pretentious. |
| <u>Dog</u> | chó | Considered lucky, loyal, and likeable. |
| <u>Pig</u> | lợn | Honest, patient, and also associated with virility. |

See also

- Vietnamese calendar

References

1. Sterling 2011, p. 31.
2. <https://en.wiktionary.org/wiki/M%C3%A3o>

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